REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. By this paper, claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 16 have been amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-23 are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Claims 21-23 stand allowed. Accordingly, only claims 1-20 remain at issue.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Geschke, et al., U.S. Patent no. 5,661,651 ("Geschke"). Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geschke in vew of Uhl, et al., U.S. Patent no. 6,169,480 B1.

During a telephonic interview between the examiner and the undersigned attorney on April 22, 2003, the patentability of claims 1-20 was discussed. It was explained that the inventor of the present application has discovered that each tire has a characteristic frequency response, for example, as illustrated in FIG. 3 of the patent application. By characteristic frequency response, it is meant that when electromagnetic energy is applied to the tire, some of the energy is absorbed or attenuated, some is passed relatively untouched or unattenuated. Frequencies where the energy is attenuated form attenuation bands; frequencies where the energy is unattenuated form passbands.

It was further explained that the inventor realized that this phenomenon can cause distortion and interference in transmission of tire data from a tire monitor mounted with the tire. To prevent this distortion, the tire monitor should transmit data at a frequency chosen in relation to the frequency response. That is, a frequency can be chosen which is known not to be substantially attenuated. Moreover, in some cases, the frequency response can be characterized ahead of time, for example, for a particular model of tire. Subsequently, for every tire of that model, a known good frequency can be used for transmission of tire data.

The examiner asserted that the subject matter defined by the claims could be clarified by explaining in the claims that some frequencies are passed and some are attenuated, as represented by the characteristic frequency response of the tire. It was agreed to make suitable amendments to the claims to make the necessary clarification.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a tire has a characteristic frequency response including passband frequencies and attenuation band frequencies. The transmitter employs a frequency chosen in relation to the passband frequencies of the characteristic frequency response. Support for this amendment is found at FIG. 3 and page 2, line 22 through page 3, line 2. Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the transmission frequency is one at which attenuation of transmitted power of a radio signal conveying the tire data is minimized. Support for this amendment is found at page 11, lines 24-31. Claim 3 has been amended to recite that the transmission frequency is selected for either a particular tire or a model of tire. Support for this amendment is found at page 9, lines 13-25.

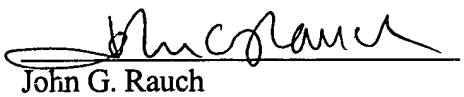
Similarly, claim 5 has been amended to recite that the transmitter transmits in a passband of frequencies of the tire wherein radio frequency energy is relatively slightly attenuated. Support for this amendment is found at page 7, lines 9-10.

Claim 16 recites a method for selecting frequencies for transmission for the tire monitor. This may be done by selecting a transmission frequency by using the frequency response of the tire to identify one or more frequencies having reduced attenuation of the radio transmissions and selecting the transmission frequency from among the one or more frequencies. Support for this amendment may be found at FIG. 5.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by claims 1-20, as amended, is nowhere shown, described or suggested by the prior art of record. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of these claims is respectfully requested.

With this response, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the examiner deem a telephone conference to be of assistance is advancing the application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



John G. Rauch
Registration No. 37,218
Attorney for Applicant

April 29, 2003
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200